



France Avenue Improvements Frequently Asked Questions

What is the project?

The City of Edina secured Federal Transportation Enhancement funding for the construction of pedestrian/intersection enhancements on France Avenue at 76th, 70th and 66th streets. In addition, the project will provide missing sidewalk connections on the east side of France Avenue, ensuring that all areas on both sides of France Avenue have an opportunity to access one of the planned crossing locations.

Why are you doing the project?

Currently, it is difficult for pedestrians and bicyclists to cross France Avenue. The primary goal of the project is to provide safe, efficient and aesthetically pleasing crossings on France Avenue for pedestrian and bicyclists.

What are the project components?

Intersection improvements include narrowing existing drive lanes on France Avenue, removing free right-turn islands and installing ADA-compliant pedestrian accommodations, pedestrian-level lighting and planters. In addition, "median refuge islands" will be built. Median refuge islands are the space between northbound and southbound traffic where pedestrians or cyclists may need to wait.

Traffic signals will also be improved with accessible pedestrian signals, countdown timers and vehicle and bike detection.

East-west bike accommodations will be made and missing sidewalk connections will be installed on the east side within the existing right-of-way.

How much will the project cost? Will the federal grant cover the cost?

The total project is estimated to cost about \$4 million. The City received a \$1.09 million grant for the project. The rest will be paid for with money from the Centennial Lakes Tax-Increment Financing (TIF) District.

The City is especially grateful for the many property owners who donated easements to make the project possible. Those property owners are Centennial Lakes II, Southdale Center, U.S. Bank National Association, Nash-Finch Company, Edina Business Plaza, Galleria Shopping Center, Byerly's and Macy's.

When will the project be bid out?

The City received bids for the project in late June. However, the only bid submitted was \$600,000 over budget. Therefore, the City Council rejected the bid and authorized staff to rebid the project in the fall.

When will construction start?

Construction is expected to begin in May 2014. The project will be completed in phases. The first phase will be between Hazelton Road and West 66th Street. The second phase will be from West 76th Street to Gallagher Drive. Landscaping and lighting will be installed late-summer 2014.

It seems work is already underway on France Avenue. Is that for a different project?

Yes. The Byerly's redevelopment includes adding a right-in/right-out access onto France Avenue between the Byerly's and Macy's properties. This work will be completed by fall 2013.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

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How will the pedestrian improvement construction affect France Avenue traffic?

Though the City and its contractors will work to minimize disruption, drivers who use France Avenue should expect delays during construction. To avoid delays, drivers are encouraged to travel York/Xerxes avenue whenever possible. More information will be available once a contractor is selected. The City anticipates selecting a contractor in December 2013.

When will the project be done?

The project is scheduled to be complete by late-October 2014.

How can I keep up-to-date on this project?

To get emails about this project, sign up for "City Extra" on the City's website and select the "France Avenue Intersection Improvements" list. Information will also be posted regularly on the City's website, www.EdinaMN.gov, and Facebook page, www.Facebook.com/EdinaMN. Be sure to follow the City on Twitter, @EdinaMN.

The City will have fact sheets and/or brochures available. If you would like some to distribute at your business or in your neighborhood, please call 612-360-1321.

Whom can I contact for more information?

The City has retained WSB Engineering to coordinate the project. Andrew Plowman of WSB serves as the City's representative and can be reached at 612-360-1311 or aplowman@wsbeng.com. Additional field contact names will be listed next spring.

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